

FOOD PURCHASE REPORT

United States
Department of
Agriculture

Agricultural
Marketing
Service

DATE: April 27, 2005

USDA FROZEN COOKED DICED CHICKEN PURCHASE PROGRAM ANNOUNCED:

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) today announced plans to purchase frozen cooked diced chicken meat produced from fowl (a class of mature female chickens) for school lunch and other domestic food nutrition assistance programs. Offers will be invited from approved suppliers for frozen cooked diced chicken meat. Diced chicken will be packed in four 10-pound (4.54 kg) packages to a net weight of 40 pounds (18.14 kg) in each fiberboard shipping container. A purchase unit will consist of 1,000 shipping containers totaling 40,000 pounds (18,144 kg).

Invitation No. 1 inviting offers due by 12 noon, Central Time, Monday, May 2, will be issued in the near future. Acceptances will be announced by midnight, Friday, May 6, for delivery from June 16 to June 30.

All offers must be submitted electronically through the Domestic Electronic Bid Entry System (DEBES) website at <https://pcsd.usda.gov:3077/mdbc1000.exe?>. Offers submitted by any means other than DEBES will be considered nonresponsive.

Information regarding these requirements is contained in Announcement PY-294, which is being distributed to the trade. Offerors are urged to review the bid format and product specification and are cautioned to only offer quantities they can reasonably expect to produce and deliver during the contracted delivery period.

There are some important changes to this year's program. All contractors and subcontractors must have a documented and operational food security plan that provides for the security of a plant's production processes. Vendors must certify in their Appendix-1 that they have a food security plan. Additionally, all offeror's must be registered in the Online Representations and Certifications Application (ORCA). ORCA can be accessed at www.bpn.gov. Offerors must have an active registration in the Central Contractor Registration (CCR) to access ORCA. All other certifications that apply strictly to Poultry Programs will still be made annually and are contained in Appendix-1. The certifications will be made one time only for all Poultry Program Announcements for the program year. All certifications, in ORCA and Appendix-1, must be

- more -

completed prior to submitting a bid. As with last year's program, processors who wish to participate in the purchase program must apply in writing to the Contracting Officer. The written application must include an outline of formulation and production processes to be used in producing diced chicken. In addition, processors must develop a documented quality control program that specifically addresses the removal of bone and bone-like material from the raw materials used in production of diced chicken. The documented program is to be submitted to the Contracting Officer for review and approval.

Offerors are urged to carefully read all applicable terms and conditions of USDA-1, as amended, Announcement PY-294, Appendix-1, the Commodity Specification for Diced Chicken dated April 2005 and Invitation No. 1.

Inquiries may be made by telephoning (202) 720-7693 or addressing the Contracting Officer, USDA/AMS/Poultry Programs, Commodity Procurement Branch STOP 0260, Washington, DC 20250. An electronic version of this Food Purchase Report can be obtained through the world wide web via the Commodity Procurement Home Page at:

<http://www.ams.usda.gov/cp>.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, or marital or family status. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD).

To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326-W, Whitten Building, 14th and Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call (202) 720-5964 (voice and TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

- - - - -